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BOE Considers Whether Low-Income Housing Qualifies for Property Tax Exemptions Board Also Discusses Regulations for Mobile Food Vendors

Sacramento – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) will consider adopting a variety of rates and regulations at its November 19-20, 2013, meeting at 450 N Street in Sacramento.

The Board will consider a proposed annotation regarding low-income housing. The issue concerns whether low-income housing developers who have entered into Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements with local governments can also qualify for welfare exemptions from property taxes. Some developers contend without the tax exemptions, some of their properties for low-income residents may be shuttered.

The Board will review a proposed regulatory change to presume mobile food vendors' sales of items subject to tax include the tax as part of the listed price under Sales and Use Tax Regulation 1603, Taxable Sales of Food Products.

The Board will also hold a public hearing on amendments to the Board of Equalization Rules for Tax Appeals that, among other things, incorporate, implement, and clarify Revenue and Taxation Code section 40, which requires the Board to publish on its website written opinions that explain the Board's decisions for certain matters where the amount in controversy is \$500,000 or more.

The Board will be setting the 2014 values of lands zoned for timberland production in order to report them to county assessors by November 30 of each year as required by state law. Values of land zoned for timberland production in 2014 have all decreased between \$1 and \$9 per acre due to a decrease in timber values and volumes harvested over the past several years.

The Board will review a proposed amendment to Sales and Use Tax Regulation 1699, Permits regarding issuing and revoking a new seller's permit to a person with an outstanding BOE liability who enters into an installment payment agreement to pay that liability.

The Board will also determine the effect of Proposition 10 on cigarette and tobacco product consumption. Proposition 10 raised the tax on cigarettes by 50 cents per pack starting in 1999. The Board is required to determine the effect on consumption to backfill Proposition 99 (a 25-cent increase on a pack of cigarettes effective in 1989) and breast cancer research programs. This determination does not impact the taxes consumers pay on these products. BOE staff is recommending the affected funds be backfilled \$13.6 million for Fiscal Year 2012-13 as part of the Board's consent agenda during this month's meeting.

For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov.

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The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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